There Oughta Be A Law!

The Legislative Process: Idea to Statute

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Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy
Sources & Authorities

Alaska Constitution
Alaska Statutes
Decisions of the Alaska Supreme Court
Uniform Rules of Alaska Legislature
Manual of Legislative Drafting
Bicameral Legislature –
two bodies –
    Senate - 20 members, 4
    year terms

House – 40 members, 2
year terms
**Terms**

**Legislature** – a two-year period, from start of the session mid-January after every general election, through the beginning of the session after the next general election. Since statehood they have been numbered.

**Session** – The first year (odd year) a legislature meets is the first session; the second year (even year) the legislature meets is the second session.

*Thus, the first session of the 32\textsuperscript{nd} legislature is presently underway.*

**Chamber** – The Senate and House of Representatives are each a chamber. The *Speaker of the House* and the *Senate President* led their respective chambers.

**Bill** – Used to amend a state law.

**Resolution** – Used to express will, wish, view, opinion, or sympathy of one chamber.

**Joint Resolution** – Used to express a view or wish to President, Congress, Federal Agency or to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution or amend the Alaska Constitution.
Process -- Idea to Statute

1. Idea
2. Bill Drafting
3. Introduction - First Reading
4. Committee one hearings
5. Committee two hearings
6. Rules committee
7. Second Reading
8. Third Reading
9. Vote
10. Sent To Other chamber
11. Repeat 3-9
12. Conference Committee
13. Each Chamber Votes
14. To governor
15. Enrollment
IDEA

- Individual, constituent
- Social or professional group, nonprofit
- State agency
- Local Government
- Lobbyist
- Legislator
- Legislative committee
- Governor
Sell Your Idea

A. Shop Around
Who is your Senator and Representative?
Who is on the pertinent committee?
Who is committee chair?
What legislator has previously championed the issue or similar issue?

B. Contact legislator/staff/committee
Generate enthusiasm
Do preliminary drafting
Bill Drafting

Consider:

1. What is the issue or problem the idea is trying to remedy?
2. What are some examples of the problem or issue.
3. What needs to be changed?
4. What is the desired result?
Bill Filing Deadlines

By individual legislators:
Prefile (10), before legislature convenes through day 35 of second session ~late February.

Committees – during session

Expiration
Contrast Legislature with session
How Do you Read a Bill? What is the Code?

Heading
- Legislature/Session
- Which house
- Bill number
- Name of sponsor(s)
- Committee referrals
- Date introduced

Title
- Must contain every subject of bill
- Reasonable notice of subject
- Prevent “surreptitious introduction”
- Must be a single subject
HOUSE BILL NO. 2
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA.
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES RAUSCHER, Sullivan-Leonard

Introduced: 2/20/19
Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, State Affairs, Finance

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to the relocating and convening of the legislature at the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage; relating to the regulation of lobbying; relating to annual student guests of the legislature; relating to locations of sessions of the legislature; relating to the Legislative Ethics Act; relating to the relocation of functions of state government; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
Bill Code II

- Separate section of bill for each statute changed
- Sections in arranged numerically according to system of order of Alaska law

- Additions to existing statutes are in bold and underlined.
- Entirely New sections are in bold
- [DELETIONS FROM EXISTING STATUTES ARE IN CAPS BETWEEN BRACKETS]
(2) the solicitation or acceptance occurs during the 90 days immediately preceding that election; and

(3) the solicitation or acceptance occurs in a place other than the Municipality of Anchorage during a regular session [CAPITAL CITY] or a municipality in which the legislature is convened in special session if the legislature is convened in a municipality other than the Municipality of Anchorage [CAPITAL CITY].

* Sec. 2. AS 15.13.072(g) is amended to read:

(g) A candidate or an individual who has filed with the commission the document necessary to permit that individual to incur election-related expenses under AS 15.13.100 for election or reelection to the office of governor or lieutenant governor may not solicit or accept a contribution in the Municipality of Anchorage [CAPITAL CITY] while the legislature is convened in a regular or special legislative session.

* Sec. 3. AS 24.05.090 is amended to read:

Sec. 24.05.090. Duration of legislature; sessions. The legislature shall convene in the Municipality of Anchorage at the Legislative Information Office [CAPITAL] each year on the third Tuesday in January at 1:00 p.m. Each legislature has a duration of two years and consists of a "First Regular Session" that meets in the odd-numbered years, and a "Second Regular Session" that meets in the even-numbered years, and any special session that the governor or legislature calls.

* Sec. 4. AS 24.05.100(b) is amended to read:

(b) A special session may be held at any location in the state. If a special session called under (a)(1) of this section is to be convened at a location other than the Legislative Information Office in the Municipality of Anchorage [AT THE CAPITAL], the governor shall designate the location in the proclamation. If a special session called under (a)(2) of this section is to be convened at a location other than the Legislative Information Office in the Municipality of Anchorage [AT THE CAPITAL], the presiding officers shall agree to and designate the location in the poll conducted of the members of both houses.

* Sec. 5. AS 24.10.030 is amended to read:

Sec. 24.10.030. Chief clerk and senate secretary. Each house shall select
Standing Committees

with pertinent subject areas

• Community & Regional Affairs – local governments, unorganized borough, economic development

• Education & Early Childhood, preschool, k-12, University

• Finance – appropriations, revenue, taxing, bonds

• Health & Social Services – Child & Elder protection, Pioneer Homes, API, Juvenile Justice, Denali Kid Care

• Judiciary – Court system, criminal and civil law, department of law
More Standing Committees

With pertinent subject areas

• Labor & Commerce - Labor relations, worker safety, unemployment, workers comp, commerce

• Resources – Fish & game, environmental conservation, natural resources

• Rules – Calendar, sponsors governor’s bills, uniform rules, management of legislature, hire legislative staff (Sgt. of Arms, pages, committee staff)

• State Affairs – Military & veterans’ affairs, public safety, corrections, public facilities

• Transportation – Roads, bridges, airports, ferries
Committee Structure

Odd number of members

Chair is designated by chamber leadership

Members are designated by the committee on committees

Number of minority members determined by Legislative rules

Usually have regular meeting days and time

Meetings recorded; journal kept.
First Committee Consideration (CRA)

Presentations
Consider bills & resolutions
May hear from: Agency, sponsor, staff, citizens, stakeholders,
Fiscal note
Amendments
Committee substitute
Vote, Committee report
Back to Clerk/Secretary – refer to next committee
Second Committee Consideration (SA)

Presentations,
Consider Bills & resolutions
Hear from: Agency, sponsor, staff, citizens, stakeholders,
   Fiscal note
   Amendments
   Committee substitute
Vote, Committee Report
Back to Clerk/Secretary
To Rules Committee
Be an Influencer

Speak at the committee hearing
Provide written materials to committee members
Present a power-point
Send POM, e-mail, snail-mail
Encourage like minded people to contact & message
Rules Committee

Calendars Second & Third readings

May:
- Amend
- Issue committee substitute
Floor Debate

Second Reading

Title is read, with committee report

May be amended

Vote on bill w/ amendments

Reprinted

To Rules Committee
  Put back on calendar for third reading
Floor Debate

Third Reading

Read heading and title only, no committee report
No amendments permitted
Yea/nays recorded in journal
To Other Chamber & Repeat

- First reading, committee referrals
- First committee consideration
- Second committee consideration
- Rules committee
- To Floor, Second reading
- To Rules Committee
- To Floor, Third reading
- To Rules Committee
- Vote
- Sent back to original chamber
Disagreement Between Chambers

Return Original Chamber

Motion to concur

If concur – enrollment/leg legal

If no concurrence – sent to conference committee.
Conference Committee

Three members appointed by chair of each chamber

Resolve points of conflict, and report resolution to each chamber
Free Conference Committee

If conference report is rejected or bill is not accepted by both chambers, free conference committee (new people) appointed

Whole bill is subject to consideration

Report to each chamber

Floor Vote
Governor

Governor has 15 days, if legislature in session, or 20 days, if not,
to sign, or
let become law without signature,
veto, with explanation

Veto Override

Joint session, 2/3s to override,
3/4 if appropriations or revenue
Statute

temporary location or locations. The temporary location or locations shall remain the emergency seat of government or location of the legislative session until the emergency is declared to be ended by the governor and the seat of government or session is returned to its normal location.

* Sec. 16. AS 44.06.050, 44.06.055, and 44.06.060 are repealed.

* Sec. 17. This Act takes effect January 1, 2021.
# 31st Legislature (2019-2020)

## BILL STATISTICS

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**STEPS IN THE PASSAGE OF A HOUSE BILL**

1. **Bill drafted & printed**
2. **Bill introduced and referred to committee(s) (First Reading)**
3. **Committees hold hearings & vote**
4. **Full House debates/amends (Second Reading)**
5. **Bill passes or fails (Third Reading)**

If the bill passes the House, it must go through the same process in the Senate. If it passes the Senate, then....

- **If Senate passes bill without amendments, it is returned to House**
- **If Senate amends bill, House considers again**
- **Conference committee develops compromise version of bill**
- **If House accepts Senate amendments...**
- **If House rejects Senate amendments...**
- **Bill checked for correctness (Enrollment)**
- **Bill signed by Speaker & President**
- **Governor signs, vetoes, or allows to become law**

*This chart shows the progress of a bill originating in the House of Representatives. For a Senate bill, the process would begin on the Senate side. See “Legislative Process in Alaska” for more information.*
It’s like sausage
For more information


Alaska constitution:
https://ltgov.alaska.gov/information/alaskas-constitution

Alaska Statutes -- http://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp


Bill tracking -- https://www.akleg.gov/basis/btmf_login.asp
Questions???

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